AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. – 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) A method comprising:

receiving device information from a plurality of interface controllers operatively associated with storage system devices;

generating a logical map identifying at least some of the storage system devices based on the device information; and

assigning the logical map to at least one host for access to the storage system devices.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising aggregating configuration information from each of the storage system devices for the logical map.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising propagating management commands to each of the plurality of interface controllers.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising routing transactions from the at least one host to at least one of the interface controllers.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising formatting transactions from the at least one host for a designated interface controller.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising scheduling access by the at least one host to the storage system devices.

18. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising identifying the storage system devices in the logical map as logical units (LUNs).

19. – 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Withdrawn) A storage network comprising:

an automated storage system including data access drives and transfer robotics;

a plurality of interface controllers operatively associated with the data access drives and transfer robotics;

an interface manager communicatively coupled to each of the plurality of interface controllers, the interface manager to generate a logical map of the automated storage system based on aggregating configuration information for the data access drives and transfer robotics; and

a pipeline provided as computer readable program code in computer-readable storage at the interface manager, the pipeline including:

a command router to format transactions for the interface controllers;

a management application program interface (API) to generate management commands for the plurality of interface controllers; and

a device manager to communicate with the plurality of interface controllers.

22. (Withdrawn) The storage network of claim 21 wherein the management API generates at least the following management commands: reboot, interrogate, and status.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Withdrawn) The storage network of claim 21 wherein the management API schedules access to the data access drives and transfer robotics.

25. (Previously Presented) An interface manager for use in a storage system, comprising:

at least a first port to communicate with controllers operatively associated with storage system devices of the storage system;

at least one network port to communicate with a host external to the storage system; and

at least one control element to:

receive device information from the controllers,

generate at least one logical map based on the received device information, and

assign the at least one logical map to the host to allow the host to access one or more of the storage system devices.

26. (Previously Presented) The interface manager of claim 25, wherein the received device information includes at least one of numbers and types of storage system devices connected to the controllers, and capacities of storage system devices in the storage system.

27. (Previously Presented) The interface manager of claim 25, wherein the at least one control element includes a pipeline to route management commands to the controllers.

28. (Previously Presented) The interface manager of claim 25, wherein the at least one control element includes a command router to format transactions for the controllers.

29. (Previously Presented) The interface manager of claim 25, wherein the at least one control element includes a management application program interface (API) to generate management commands for the controllers.

30. (Previously Presented) The interface manager of claim 29, wherein the management API schedules access to data access drives and transfer robotics.

31. (Previously Presented) The interface manager of claim 25, wherein the storage system devices include data access drives and transfer robotics, and wherein the data access drives and transfer robotics are identified by a fibre channel port and logical units (LUNs) in the logical map.

32. (Previously Presented) The interface manager of claim 25, further comprising a user interface to allow access of the at least one logical map to enable administrator modification of the at least one logical map.

33. (Previously Presented) The interface manager of claim 25, wherein the at least one control element is configured to further:

monitor for a change in a state of the storage system devices; and

in response to the change, modify the at least one logical map.